INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State ACTION COPY

SECRET

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EXCISE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2/7/11
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. I TALKED WITH [redacted] TODAY TO TRY TO FIND OUT WHETHER HE HAD MADE ANY PROGRESS IN THE THIEU-KY SITUATION. I REMINDED HIM THAT KY HAD TOLD ME ON MONDAY THAT HE PROPOSED TO TALK WITH THIEU (#) IN ORDER TO ENDEAVOR TO COME TO (#) WITH HIM.

2. [redacted] REPLIED THUY HAD INVITED THIEU FOR DINNER ON WEDNESDAY, TOGETHER WITH EIGHT OR TEN OTHER GENERALS. AT THE LAST MINUTE THIEU HAD BACKED OUT PLEADING ILLNESS.

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LATER LEARNED THAT THIEU HAD NOT BEEN ILL AND HAD LET IT BE KNOWN HE WANTED TO TALK WITH KY ALONE, NOT IN THE PRESENCE OF THE OTHER GENERALS. ADVISED KY THAT HE SHOULD SEE GENERAL THIEU ALONE AND KY HAS AGREED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY AS TO WHETHER HE CONSIDERED A BASIS EXISTED FOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN THIEU AND KY, SAID THAT HE THOUGHT SO BUT THE GROUND MUST BE ADEQUATELY PREPARED BEFOREHAND IF THE TALKS WERE TO SUCCEED. IN AN EFFORT TO DO THIS HE HAS BEEN TALKING OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS TO THIEU'S BROTHER KIEU.

4. KIEU HAD MENTIONED SOME ALTERNATIVES TO BECOMING A CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY WHICH HE THOUGHT MIGHT INTEREST THIEU. AMONG THESE WERE RUNNING FOR THE

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SENATE AND, IF ELECTED, BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE. ANOTHER WAS A RETURN TO THE ARMED FORCES, PROVIDING ADEQUATE RANK AND PRESTIGE COULD BE ARRANGED

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AND PROVIDING THE INTEGRITY OF THE FORCES HAD BEEN MAINTAINED. KIEU ALSO ADMITTED (#) THAT THIEU

CHANCES OF BEING ELECTED WERE NOT GOOD IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT KY HAD THE APPARATUS OF GOVERNMENT AT HIS DISPOSAL AND HAD BEEN EMPLOYING IT IN THE INTEREST OF HIS CANDIDACY FOR SOME TIME. KIEU ALSO INTIMATED THAT SOME OF THE YOUNGER OFFICERS HAD BEEN PRESSING THIEU BECAUSE OF FEAR THAT THEIR POSITIONS MIGHT BE AFFECTED IN THE EVENT OF KY'S ELECTION.

5. I ASKED [ ] HIS VIEW OF THIEU'S MOTIVES IN APPARENTLY SERIOUSLY ENTERTAINING THE IDEA OF RUNNING IN VIEW OF THE STATEMENT HE HAD MADE TO ME AND OTHERS THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE HE COULD BE ELECTED, A STATEMENT REPEATED NOW BY KIEU [ ] IN TALKING WITH ME THIEU HAD SAID HIS DECISION WOULD BE BASED ON GROUNDS OF CONSCIENCE AND AN ESTIMATE OF WHERE HIS RESPONSIBILITY LAY. [ ] REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THIEU WAS MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY A FEELING OF BITTERNESS, A FEELING THAT HE HAD

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NOT BEEN FAIRLY TREATED BY THE GENERALS. [ ] REMARKED THAT THE GENERALS ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS HAD BEEN A RESULT OF THIEU'S OWN INDECISIVENESS. I SAID THAT IT SEEMED TO ME THAT IF THIS WERE REALLY THE CASE, THE MANS COULD BE FOUND TO OVERCOME THIS FEELING; CERTAINLY IF THIEU WISHED TO RETURN TO THE MILITARY, THE QUESTION OF RANK OR PRESTIGE OUGHT NOT TO BE AN OBSTACLE. [ ] AGREED THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND A SOLUTION BUT RETURNED



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AGAIN TO THE NEED FOR CAREFUL PREPARATION FOR THE TALKS BEFORE THE PRINCIPALS GOT TOGETHER. HE SAID: "THIS IS OUR OWN PROBLEM AND WE MUST WORK IT OUT. I AM SORRY IT IS TAKING SO LONG BUT THIS IS THE ASIAN WAY OF DOING THINGS." HE PROMISED TO KEEP IN TOUCH ON THE PROGRESS OF FURTHER TALKS.

BUNKER
BT

(#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.


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